

City and County Borough of Lincoln



ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year

1940

By

M. L. BERY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

LINCOLN:

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City Health Department,
Lincoln,
September, 1941.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health of the City during 1940.

This is my eleventh Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health.

The Report is in accordance with the Ministry of Health's Circular 2314 and on account of the need for strict economy and the increased work on the Department is in the nature of an interim report only.

I am glad to report that the various Clinics and Treatment Centres provided by the Council were well attended and were of great assistance in looking after the health of the population.

Lincoln was classified as a Receiving Centre, but exact figures of the number of evacuees who came to Lincoln is not available. It is estimated, however, that there was a large increase in the population due to this cause. The various Clinics and Treatment Centres were available to the evacuees in the same manner as to persons normally resident in Lincoln.

The Hospitals provided by the Council were available throughout the year, but the Council is fully aware of the necessity for the provision of additional and more up-to-date Hospital accommodation in the City. I am informed that the question of Hospital accommodation generally is being given further consideration by the Ministry of Health.

The use of the Maternity Home at Newland was discontinued during the year on account of inadequate room and the unsatisfactory nature of the Isolation accommodation, especially from the point of view of Air Raid Precautions. The Maternity Home was transferred to the Children's Nursery on Macaulay Drive, but efforts were continued to find other accommodation with a view to providing a larger number of beds for maternity cases.

Measles and Whooping Cough were notifiable during the year.

It is pleasing to report that the general nutritional condition of the school children did not show any deterioration as compared with the previous year.

During the year a great deal of the time of your Medical Officer of Health and other Staff was of necessity occupied by the Medical Section of Civil Defence.

I am glad to state that full activities of the Health Services were maintained during the year.

In conclusion I wish to thank all Members of the Council for their keen interest in the various problems put before them in connection with the health of the City, and I take this opportunity to express my appreciation of the good work accomplished by all the Staffs engaged in carrying out the work of the Health Services.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

M. L. BERY,
Medical Officer of Health.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Live Births :—	Males.	Females.	Total.	Birth-rate per 1,000 population.
Legitimate ..	450	410	860	
Illegitimate ..	23	29	52	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Total ..	473	439	912	14.1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Still-births ..	21	17	38	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births. 40
Deaths ..	497	458	955	Death-rate per 1,000 population. 14.06
Deaths from puerperal causes :—				Maternal Mortality per 1,000 total (live and still births).
From Sepsis .. ..	..	..	2	2.1
Other puerperal causes ..	..	..	2	2.1
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total .. ..	..	..	4	4.2
Death-rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births :—				Infant Mortality Rate.
Legitimate ..	44	Illegitimate ..	5	49
Number of deaths from Measles (all ages) .. ..	..	..	..	Nil.
„ „ „ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) .. ..	..	..	..	Nil.
„ „ „ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .. ..	..	..	..	10

Death-Rate per 1,000 of population from :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	.78
Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	.15
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	..	..	.15
Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.52
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	.56

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(1) Laboratory Facilities.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory and the Laboratory at the Public Health Department were available during the year, but a large number of samples were sent away from the City for special examinations.

The provision of an adequate clinical Laboratory should be considered at a suitable time.

(2) Ambulance Facilities.

Two motor ambulances at the City Hospital for infectious cases and two motor ambulances at the Police Station continued to be kept during 1940 as in the previous year.

(3) Nursing in the Home.

The arrangements with the Lincoln District Nursing Association for the nursing of the patients in their homes were on similar lines as in the previous year.

No special nurses were employed for the nursing of infectious cases in the home.

(4) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

It was found possible to conduct all the Clinics and Treatment Centres established under the City Council. Full details were given in my report for 1938.

(5) Hospitals.

I. Provided by the Local Authority.

It was not found possible to make any new provision for hospital accommodation during the year.

The arrangements for dealing with Service cases and Air Raid Casualties in Hospitals were under the direction of the Ministry of Health and the Council is generally aware of the various steps taken to increase the bed accommodation. This matter continues to receive the attention of the Ministry of Health.

The following Hospitals provided by the Council were available for the use of the patients during the year :—

1. City Hospital and Sanatorium.
2. Burton Road Institution.
3. Joint-Smallpox Hospital.
4. The use of the City Maternity Home at Newland was discontinued during the year and arrangements were made for the children's Nursery, Macaulay Drive to be used as the City Maternity Home from August, 1940. There are ten lying-in beds and one isolation bed available at this Home.

Consideration should be given to the provision of additional bed accommodation at a suitable time.

II. Hospitals not wholly subsidised by the Local Authority.

County Hospital.

This is a voluntary general Hospital which deals with patients from the City and the neighbouring County area.

(6) **Public Assistance Medical Out-door Relief.**

The scheme for the provision of domiciliary medical relief, under which the patient has free choice of doctor, was continued during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Marriages.

There were 847 marriages solemnised as compared with 789 in the previous year.

Births.

The net live births during the year were 912 and this gives a birth rate of 14.1 as compared with 13.4 in the previous year. The net still-births were 46 as compared with 26 during 1939.

Deaths.

The net deaths for the City were 955 and this gives a death-rate of 14.06 as compared with 13.4 for 1939.

Infant Mortality.

The deaths of infants under one year of age were 45 and this gives an infant mortality rate of 49 as compared with 48 for 1939.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

The methods of investigation of notifiable infectious diseases were on similar lines as in the previous year.

The total number of notifiable infectious diseases, excluding Chicken-pox, was 1,003 as compared with 218 in the previous year. The increase is chiefly due to cases of Measles.

I may add that Measles and Whooping Cough were made notifiable during 1940.

Scarlet Fever.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was as follows :—

1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
92	59	80	61	78

There were no deaths from this cause.

Diphtheria.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was as follows :—

1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
60	49	41	34	14

There were no deaths during 1940 from this cause.

The Immunization Clinic which was established during 1935 was continued during 1940 for the use of parents who wished their children to be immunized, but the attendances were not large. At the end of the year a great effort was made to induce parents to get their children immunized and the response was more encouraging.

Erysipelas.

Ten cases were notified as compared with 5 in 1939.

There were no deaths from this cause.

Enteric Fever.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was as follows :—

1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
6	2	1	1	3

There were 2 deaths from this cause.

Dysentery.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was as follows :—

1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
8	1	—	4	11

There was no death from this cause.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was as follows :—

1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
—	1	1	—	—

There were, however, two deaths certified from this cause.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was as follows :—

1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
—	2	2	3	26

There were four deaths from this cause.

Malaria.

No case of Malaria was notified during 1940.

Acute Polio-Myelitis and Acute Polio-Encephalitis.

One case was notified during 1940.

There was no death from this cause.

Pneumonia.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was as follows :—

1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
81	120	87	97	93

The deaths attributed to this cause numbered 37.

Smallpox.

No case of Smallpox was notified during 1940.

Chickenpox.

The number of notifications received during the last five years was as follows :—

1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
391	208	482	265	138

Measles.

718 cases were notified in 1940.

No deaths were certified as due to this cause.

Whooping Cough.

40 cases were notified in 1940.

No deaths were reported from this cause.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**German Measles.**

887 cases were brought to the notice of the Health Department as against 1 in 1939.

Mumps.

46 cases were reported as against 16 in 1939.

Influenza.

The deaths directly attributed to Influenza were 36 as compared with 18 in 1939.

CANCER.

There were 98 deaths from Cancer as compared with 109 in 1939.

A Joint Committee of the three County Councils and two County Boroughs of Lincolnshire continued to give consideration to the establishment of a Joint Scheme for Cancer, but it was not found possible to take any definite action during 1940.

Prevention of Blindness.

The arrangements for the prevention of blindness were on similar lines as described in my report for 1938.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Tuberculosis Scheme was conducted on the same lines as described in my Report for 1938.

The number of primary notifications received during the last five years was as follows :—

		1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Pulmonary	.. ..	60	47	51	41	58
Non-Pulmonary	.. ..	18	23	12	12	19
Total	.. ..	<u>78</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>77</u>

Since 1931 the number of notifications of persons suffering from Tuberculosis was showing an annual decrease, but during 1940 there was an increase in the notifications.

The total number of deaths from Tuberculosis during the last five years was as follows :—

		1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Pulmonary	.. ..	47	30	27	28	50
Non-Pulmonary	.. ..	10	12	8	11	10
Total	.. ..	<u>57</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>60</u>

The importance of early diagnosis and treatment of tuberculous patients continued to be emphasised during the year.

The statistics in connection with Tuberculosis for the year 1940 were sent to the Ministry of Health at the beginning of the present year.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Venereal Diseases Scheme was on the same lines as described in my report for 1938. The statistics in connection with Venereal Diseases for the year 1940 were sent to the Ministry of Health during the beginning of the present year.

WATER.

The chlorination of the water supply was continued during the year and the results of bacteriological examination of samples of water were satisfactory.

The water supply remained satisfactory in quality and quantity.

SANITARY STAFF.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector reports that the activities of the Sanitary Staff were continued on similar lines as during 1939.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

It was found possible to continue all measures for Maternity and Child Welfare as described in my report for 1938.

Maternal Mortality.

The number of deaths in the City which were considered maternal deaths was 4. This gives a maternal mortality of 4.2 as compared with 2.29 for the previous year.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

One case was notified during the year as against 6 during 1939. The vision was unimpaired in this case.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

The number of cases of Puerperal Pyrexia notified during the last five years was as follows :—

1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
5	9	8	7	8

Municipal District Midwifery Service, and Ante-Natal Clinics.

These Services were continued on the same lines as described in my Report for 1938.

Maternity Home.

The use of the Maternity Home at Newland was discontinued on 31st July, 1940 on account of inadequate room and the unsatisfactory nature of the isolation accommodation, especially from the point of view of Air Raid Precautions.

The Maternity Home was transferred to the Children's Nursery, Macaulay Drive from 13th August, 1940, but efforts were continued to find other accommodation with a view to providing a larger number of beds for maternity cases. For the short intervening period special arrangements were made for Maternity cases at the Burton Road Emergency Hospital.

